

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Replace the paragraph beginning on p.8, line 6 with the following paragraph:

The water soluble polymers (A) in the present invention are preferably interactive with the water swelling clay minerals, which are homogeneously dispersable in water (C) ~~water (B)~~. The water soluble polymers preferably have functional groups which can form hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, and coordinate bonds, and covalent bonds with the water swelling clay minerals (B).